

convinced Congressman Olson understands that. We've got to make sure we keep our taxes low. And one thing is for certain: We need to explore for more oil and gas here at home. People are worried about the high gasoline prices. One way to take the pressure off gasoline prices is to make it clear that the United States is going to be active about finding crude oil and natural gas right here in our own hemisphere,

in our own country. And I'm convinced we can do so in environmentally friendly ways.

No doubt in my mind, Pete Olson will make a fine United States Congressman, and I'm proud to be here to support him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:38 p.m. at Ellington Field.

Statement on the 90th Birthday of Nelson R. Mandela *July 18, 2008*

On behalf of the people of the United States, Laura and I extend congratulations to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on his 90th birthday. I applaud the leadership he is

providing on many vital causes in South Africa and around the world. Mr. Mandela is a great example of courage, hope, and the power of freedom.

The President's Radio Address *July 19, 2008*

Good morning. This is a challenging time for families across our Nation. I know many families are worried about rising prices at the pump and declining home values. So this week, my administration took steps to help address both these challenges.

To help address the pressure on gasoline prices, my administration took action to clear the way for environmentally responsible offshore exploration of key parts of the Outer Continental Shelf or OCS. Experts believe that these areas of the OCS could eventually produce nearly 10 years worth of America's current annual oil production. So on Monday, I lifted an executive branch prohibition on exploration in these areas.

Unfortunately, a full month has passed since I called on Congress to lift a similar legislative ban, and Congress has done nothing. This means that the only thing now standing between the American people

and the vast oil resources of the OCS is action from the United States Congress.

Bringing OCS resources on line will take time, and that means that the need for congressional action is urgent. The sooner Congress lifts the ban, the sooner we can get these resources from the ocean floor to the gas pump. Democratic leaders need to show that they have finally heard the frustrations of the American people. They should match the action I've taken, repeal the congressional ban, and pass legislation to facilitate responsible offshore exploration.

In the short term, America's economy will continue to depend on oil, but in the long term, our economic future depends on promoting alternative energy technologies. So my administration has worked to expand the use of alternative fuels and